

Annual Report of
1940

Immunization of
quadruple as required

(1) ~~Miss Ann M. Jones~~
~~Dr. John J. Jones~~

(2) Dr. J. J. Jones

(3) Dr. J. J. Jones

(4) Library, 10
Fifth St.

Form 100-100

B O R O U G H O F B O S T O N

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____ AND ____

H E A L T H A U T H O R I T Y.

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I N T E R I M R E P O R T

____ OF THE ____

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

FOR THE YEAR 1940.

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BOROUGH OF BOSTON AND PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Report of the Health of the Borough and Port of Boston during the year 1940. The Report has been drawn up on the lines indicated in Circular 1961 of the Ministry of Health dated 16th. February 1940, but having regard to the Ministry's Circular of the 19th. July 1940, the contents have been much curtailed and confined to essential and urgent matters arising from or connected with the War and such alterations as have occurred in the various Public Health Services.

The work of the Health Department during the year has been carried out in its entirety with the additional work pertaining to evacuees of whom there were 200 living in the Borough at the end of 1940.

Much of the work pertaining to Housing, Slum-Clearance and Overcrowding has had, of necessity, to remain in abeyance but inspections have been carried out on a limited scale.

Maternity and Child Welfare work has been carried out very successfully and I have found that parents co-operate very well with me in dealing with defects. Regarding Maternity Services, the arrangements with the Boston General Hospital continue to work satisfactorily and it may be seen from the figures that mothers are still taking advantage of the services supplied.

The Infantile Mortality is somewhat higher than last year but it continues to be satisfactory.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Staff of the Public Health Department and myself, I desire to express thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued support and interest. I also wish to express my appreciation to all the members of the staff of the Department for the conscientious manner in which they have discharged their duties during a difficult year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

Dr. Robertson

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
6 Bridge Street,
BOSTON

16th. August 1941.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	3,257
Number of inhabited Houses according to Rate Books (March 31st. 1941)	6,770
Rateable Value (March 31st. 1941)	£131,431
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£514

SOCIAL CONDITIONS:-

These remained very much the same as described in my Annual Report for 1938.

UNEMPLOYMENT:-

I am indebted to the Manager of the Boston Employment Exchange for the following report in respect of the Borough :-

"The employment position was adversely affected by the severe weather conditions which caused temporary stoppage on outside work, and seasonal slackness in agriculture at the beginning of the year.

The position improved as weather conditions improved and as seasonal operations in agriculture commenced until gradually the amount of unemployment became negligible. Towards the end of the year there was, however, the usual slackness of work amongst female workers in the agricultural industry, but male workers were retained during the winter months in their employment."

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Live Births, Legitimate ...	337	169	168
Illegitimate	11	6	5
Still Births... ..	11	8	3
Deaths... ..	303	152	151
Birth Rate per 1,000 population			15.62
Still Births-rate per 1,000 total(live & still) births			30.64
Death Rate per 1,000 population....			13.69
<u>Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age :-</u>			
(a) All infants per 1,000 live births....			45.97
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births... ..			38.58
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.			272.73

Death from Measles (all ages)	1
" " Whooping Cough	1
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	1
" " Cancer (all ages)	43

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

STAFF:-

The personnel of the Medical, Nursing, Sanitary and Clerical Staff of the Public Health Department remain as at the end of 1939, with the following alterations :-

Health Visitor/School Nurse :-

Miss I. P. Burt, S.R.N., S.R.F.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor R.S.I. (Resigned April 1940)

Miss D. M. Braybrooks, S.R.N., R.F.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor R.S.I. (Appointed May 1940)

School Dental Officer :-

A. D. Henderson, L.D.S., (Edin) D.P.D.
(entered H.M.Forces April 1940)

N. Gerson, L.D.S., R.C.S., (Eng)
(appointed temporarily May 1940)

Chief Clerk :-

G. Newnam (resigned May 1940)

A. A. Edwards (appointed May 1940)

LABORATORY AND AMBULANCE FACILITIES :-

The war time facilities for laboratory and ambulance services as outlined in my Report for the year 1939 are still in force and have functioned satisfactorily.

The following Laboratories are still available to carry out the examination of bacteriological and pathological specimens from the district if required:-

- (1) Public Health Laboratory, Technical College,
LINCOLN.
- (2) Public Health Laboratory, Isolation Hospital
Groby Road, LEICESTER.

NURSING IN THE HOME :-

The arrangements operated by the Boston and District Nursing Association remained unchanged during the year.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS :-

Arrangements in connection with the Infant Welfare Centre, the Tuberculosis Dispensary, Ophthalmic Clinic, School Clinic and the Venereal Diseases Clinic remain unchanged.

The following alteration has occurred with regard to the School Dental Clinic :-

School Dental Clinic, Holland Sanatorium.-

In addition to the sessions held on Mondays and Thursdays, 9.45 a.m. to 4. p.m., a further session is now held on alternate Fridays from 9.45 a.m. to 4. p.m. and not until 12 noon.

HOSPITALS :-

The hospital arrangements in the Borough remain unaltered and in the case of an emergency the Hospitals and Institutions listed below, which are included in the County Emergency Hospital Scheme, will operate as required on the instructions of the Regional Hospital Officer of the Ministry of Health.

Boston General Hospital.
Holland Sanatorium, Boston.
County of Holland Joint Isolation Hospital.
Johnson Hospital, Spalding.
Boston Public Assistance Institution.
Spalding Public Assistance Institution.
Boston Casual Wards.
Holbeach Casual Wards.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE :-

Midwifery Services.-

The Holland County Council is the Supervising Authority for the Borough under the Midwives Act, 1936.

Maternity Services.-

The arrangements made with the Boston General Hospital with regard to the above has worked satisfactorily during the year. A total of 85 mothers were admitted to the Maternity Unit through the Borough Scheme.

BOSTON INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

The Infant Welfare Centre has continued to carry out most valuable work during the year under review. The number of attendances at the Welfare Centre for the year were 6,928. Slight difficulty has been found in obtaining Dried Food and consequently the food has had to be "Rationed". The amount of food allowed per child per week has been allocated according to the child's age.

Arrangements for Dental, Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic and Tonsils and Adenoid Cases :-

Tonsils and Adenoids.-

16 children under five years of age received operative treatment in the Boston General Hospital for Tonsils and Adenoids. This is 7 more cases than for the previous year.

Orthopaedic Treatment.-

57 attendances were made by children at Mr. Pilcher's Out-patient Department at the Holland Sanatorium for Orthopaedic Treatment. This is 12 more than for the previous year.

Ophthalmic Treatment.-

33 attendances were made at the Ophthalmic Clinic during the year. This is 3 more than for the previous year.

Dental Treatment.-

25 Children were referred from the Welfare Centre during the year to receive dental treatment.

Dental Treatment for Expectant Mothers.-

31 Expectant Mothers were referred for Dental treatment by the County Council, 19 receiving the necessary treatment through the Borough Scheme.

BOSTON DAY NURSERY

The Day Nursery has continued to function successfully during the year, the total number of attendances being 6,754, showing a large increase of 1,035 over the previous year's figure of 5,719. The reason for this rise in attendance is, in my opinion, due to the fact that many of the mothers are employed in extra war work...

The Day Nursery is recognised by the National Society of Day Nurseries as a Training School for Nursery Nurses and during 1940 two probationers nurses succeeded in passing the Elementary Examination of this Society. This entitles them to be children's nurses. Three also passed the Red Cross Home Nursing Examination. Four probationer nurses completed their training and four new students were admitted.

Miss Cooke resigned her position as Matron in July and Miss Brothwell commenced her duties as Matron on 4th. July 1940.

SECTION C.

WATER SUPPLY :-

I am indebted to Mr. T. H. Tyson, Waterworks Engineer for the following extracts taken from his Annual Report for 1940 on the Borough Water Supply :-

"During the year war conditions prevailed, with the resultant difficulties and delays in obtaining essential materials for carrying on the work. In spite of this the water supply was maintained up to normal and kept pace with all demands.

Domestic and trade demands are still increasing. The average daily consumption during the year was 793,523 gallons (31.7 gallons per head). The largest daily consumption figure being 1,160,000 gallons on 16th. August 1940.

Samples of water were taken for analysis every month and in every case the results were satisfactory.

House to house inspection of fittings were carried out when circumstances permitted.

All new fittings have been examined and where satisfactory were passed and stamped.

The Following are particulars of work carried out during the year :-

Total length of new public mains laid...	1,480 yds.
Total length of new private mains laid..	123 yds
New supplies	29
W.C's connected..	74
Baths connected..	33
Meters installed.	23

MISCELLANEOUS :-

The sanitary circumstances of the Borough underwent practically no change during the year. The usual routine inspections were carried out by the sanitary Staff, and the position at the end of the year was entirely satisfactory.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

House to house inspection during 1940 was carried out on a smaller scale than previously owing to the lack of men and materials.

Endeavours were made, however, to keep dwelling houses in a reasonable state of repair if not in all respects reasonably fit for habitation.

The number of overcrowded houses at the end of the year was 99.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Regular inspections have been made throughout the year of farms and dairies situated in the Borough, and on all occasions the premises have been found to be kept in a very satisfactory condition.

There are now no producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk within the Borough.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Under the control of the Livestock Scheme one Slaughterhouse has been in use in the Borough covering the Borough and Rural District.

In my opinion a greater degree of efficiency in inspection of meat has resulted.

	Beef	Mutton	Pork
Carcases examined.....	2403	9079	7803
Carcases condemned.....	40	18	150

Total weight condemned. 27 tons. 2cwts. 2 qrs. 13 lbs.

In addition to the Slaughterhouse Inspections have been made to premises used for preparation of food.

ADULTERATION &c.

With the coming into operation of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 on the 1st. October 1939, the duties as regards sampling were transferred to the Holland County Council.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFICATION RECEIVED :-

Scarlet Fever.-

63 cases were notified during the year. This being for the most part school children and under fives. This figure shows an increase of 40 cases on the previous year.

Diphtheria.-

26 cases were notified during the year. This figure shows a decrease of 123 cases on that of the previous year. This decrease is due to the Mass Immunisation carried out in the Schools by me in the early part of 1939.

Pneumonia.-

25 cases were notified during the year, this being 14 less than the previous year.

Puerperal Pyrexia.-

2 notifications were received, 5 less than the previous year.

Erysipelas.-

3 notifications were received, 2 more than the previous year.

Measles.-

74 cases were notified during the year. This figure cannot be compared with that of the previous year as the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1939, did not come into force until 23rd. October 1939.

Whooping Cough.-

19 cases were notified during the year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.-

One notification was received during the year.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.-

4 cases were notified during the year

Enteric Fever.-

One case was notified during the year.

Chicken Pox.-

The incidence of this disease was again lower than in the previous year. 63 cases being notified as compared to 73 in the previous year.

HOSPITAL TREATMENT:-

Of the cases referred to above the following received hospital treatment at the County of Holland Joint Isolation Hospital :-

Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	54
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	...	...	...	...	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever..	...	...	...	...	4
Enteric Fever...	...	...	...	...	1
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	3

LABORATORY FACILITIES, PROVISION OF SERA &c.

Medical Practitioners are given every opportunity for the examination of clinical material and fees are paid by the Authority where necessary.

The work is now carried out at the Laboratory of the Holland County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS :-

Official notification of this disease is carried out with a fair degree of efficiency.

No action was necessary during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

	Respiratory	Respiratory	Total
Cases on Register at commencement of year...	128	72	200
Cases added to Register during the year by notifications, transfers from other areas etc...	17	6	23
Cases removed from Register on account of death, removal to other area etc.	24	10	34
Cases remaining on Register at the end of year	121	68	189

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BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
FOR THE YEAR 1940.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the following brief Report on the work carried out in connection with the Port Health Administration during the year ended 31st. December 1940 :-

SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR :-

Of the total number of foreign and coast-wise ships entering the Port during the year, the following are particulars regarding inspections carried out, defects remedied, etc.-

Number Inspected.-

(a) By Medical Officer of Health...	...	10
(b) By Sanitary Inspector ...	...	26
Number reported to be defective ...	...	nil.
Number of vessels on which defects were remedied...	...	nil.
Number of Vessels reported as having or having had during the voyage infectious disease ...	...	nil.

PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933 :-

Infectious Disease Notified.

Cases of Infectious sickness landed from vessels during the year	...	nil.
Cases of Infectious sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage, but disposed of prior to arrival .....	...	nil.

MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS :-

Rats destroyed during 1940 :-

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) On Vessels | nil. |
| (2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves
and Warehouses | nil. |

Issue of Deratisation and Deratisation Exemption
Certificates.

No certificates have been issued during the year, as Boston is not an approved Port Certificates when required have been obtained from Grimsby.

FOOD INSPECTION :-

No action was found to be necessary during the year under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Preservatives etc.) Regulations, 1925 to 1939, and the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations 1926.

Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934.

There are Mussel and Cockle Beds within the area of the Port Health Authority in the Wash. These are periodically inspected and samples of the shellfish are taken for analysis.

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I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

Dr Robertson

Medical Officer of Health.

